

Education Committee

March 7, 2011

S.B. No. 1106 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Shelta Wilson, and I am a licensed child care provider with a home-based business in New Haven. Although I love being a provider and care deeply about the families that depend on me, being a provider is a stressful job where we have very little recourse when it comes to late payment and paperwork problems.

One time it took 6 months for Care4Kids to make a decision on a child that I was caring for. The parents desperately needed care, so I agreed to take in the child until a decision was made. Month after month went by, and they kept asking more and more information and paperwork – before ultimately denying the child. And this same scenario has happened to me many times before. The parents of these children are usually in a position where they need to work right away- or they might not be able to buy food or pay rent. And without our care they simply can't go to work. Providers like me are often forced into situations like these because we can't stand to see someone who truly wants to get out and join the workforce but can't because of a lack of child care.

If we had a voice through S.B. No.1106, we could take on issues such as these. We know first-hand what delays in certification can do to providers and parents, so we would look

for ways to streamline or improve the process so providers could get decisions more quickly and parents could make alternative plans if denied.

We truly care about the child care system in our state and want to see it improved. And we care about children first and foremost- which is why we got into the business in the first place. That's why I feel we would be invaluable assets to the state if given the chance through this bill.

Sincerely,

Shelta Wilson

55 Pardee Place, 1st Floor

New Haven, CT 06515